

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OSLO 04379 281751Z

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCEM-02 SCI-06 EB-11 INT-08 OMB-01

TRSE-00 COME-00 STR-08 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 DRC-01 CIEP-02 NEA-10

AGR-20 FPC-01 FMC-04 CG-00 FAA-00 DOTE-00 /210 W

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FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7445

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, NO

SUBJ: PHASE 2 OF THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT'S PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

SAVINGS PLAN INTRODUCED

REF: OSLO 4185

1. PHASE 2 OF NORWAY'S PROGRAM TO REDUCE CONSUMPTION OF

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PAGE 02 OSLO 04379 281751Z

PETROLEUM PRODUCTS WAS ANNOUNCED BY THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE

AND SHIPPING ON NOVEMBER 24. MAIN POINTS ARE:

A. GAS STATIONS WILL CLOSE WEEKDAYS BETWEEN 7 PM AND 5 AM AND WEEKENDS BETWEEN 7 PM FRIDAY AND 5 AM MONDAY. ONLY TAXIS WILL BE ALLOWED TO PURCHASE FUEL DURING THESE "CLOSED" HOURS.

B. EXCEPT FOR AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY MACHINERY, ONLY FUEL TANKS ON VEHICLES MAY BE FILLED.

C. ALL AUTOMOBILE AND MOTORCYCLE RALLIES AND COMPETITIONS ARE PROHIBITED.

D. DELIVERIES OF HEATING FUEL WILL BE REDUCED BETWEEN OCTOBER 1, 1973 AND APRIL 30, 1974 BY 25 PERCENT COMPARED WITH 1972/1973. FUEL OIL FOR HEATING HOSPITALS, OLD PEOPLE'S HOMES AND SIMILAR ESTABLISHMENTS WILL BE REDUCED 10 PERCENT.

E. HEATING OIL SUPPLIERS MUST PROVIDE THE AUTHORITIES UPON REQUEST WITH INFORMATION ABOUT THEIR SALES.

2. INCREASING CONCERN OVER THE OIL SHORTAGES AND THE FAILURE OF NORWAY'S VOLUNTARY PROGRAM TO REDUCE CONSUMPTION 10 PER-CENT CAUSED INTRODUCTION OF PHASE 2. PHASE 2 IS INTENDED TO REDUCE CONSUMPTION 25 PERCENT.

3. RESTRICTIONS ON INDUSTRIAL USE OF OIL NOT YET ISSUED, BUT ARE EXPECTED TO BE ANNOUNCED SHORTLY. ALL INDUSTRY POSSIBLE WILL BE SHIFTED TO HYDROELECTRIC POWER, AND A SYSTEM OF PRIORITIES WILL BE ESTABLISHED FOR THE REST WITHIN A TOTAL CUT BACK FOR INDUSTRY OF 25 PERCENT. REQUIREMENTS FOR USE OF LOW SULPHUR OIL WILL ALSO PROBABLY BE LIFTED BECAUSE OF LACK OF AVAILABILITY OF THESE GRADES.

4. ESSO NORWAY IS SKEPTICAL THAT THE RESTRICTIONS ON FUEL FOR CARS AND TRUCKS WOULD RESULT IN MUCH FUEL SAVING. THERE IS LITTLE WINTER DRIVING OVER LONG DISTANCES IN NORWAY AND THE EFFECT OF THE PROGRAM IS LIKELY TO BE MORE PSYCHOLOGICAL THAN ACTUAL. SOME SHORTAGES ARE BEING REPORTED, ESPECIALLY AFTER ANNOUNCEMENT OF PHASE 2, AND A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 OSLO 04379 281751Z

BAN ON WEEKEND OR SUNDAY DRIVING IS, THEREFORE, LIKELY BY EARLY DECEMBER DESPITE OFFICIAL VIEWS THAT IT WILL WORK INEQUITIES. GAS PRICES ARE EXPECTED TO RISE TO 36 CENTS A LITER IN 1974.

5. A HIGH LEVEL NORWEGIAN TRADE MISSION HAS JUST LEFT FOR MOSCOW ON A REGULAR PERIODIC VISIT AND WILL TALK ABOUT INCREASED OIL PURCHASES FROM THE U.S.S.R. PRESENT TRADE

AGREEMENT PROVIDES FOR PURCHASES IN 1973 BY NORWAY OF
SOME 400,000 TONS OF SOVIET PETROLEUM PRODUCTS-- MOSTLY LOW
OCTANE GAS AND LIGHT AND HEAVY OIL. BEFORE ENERGY CRISIS
THERE WAS TALK OF PURCHASE OF ONE MILLION TONS IN
1974, AND NORWAY WILL TRY TO BUTTON THIS DOWN DURING THE TRADE
TALKS.

6. HEUM OF MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SHIPPING ADVISED
EMBASSY THAT LATEST FIGURES INDICATE THAT SUPPLIES OF ALL
GRADES OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS WILL BE EQUALLY TIGHT. NORWEGIAN
STOCKS HAVE BEEN DRAWN DOWN VERY SLIGHTLY. NO FORMAL RATIONING
LIKELY BEFORE CHRISTMAS. NORWAY ALSO DOES NOT WISH TO BE FIRST
EUROPEAN COUNTRY TO INTRODUCE RATIONING, ESPECIALLY WHEN
SITUATION HERE BETTER THAN ELSEWHERE.

7. SO FAR SHIPPING IS UNAFFECTED. RESTRICTIONS ARE
BEING CONSIDERED, BUT HEUM SAYS GOVERNMENT HOPES AVOID
ANY REDUCTION IN VIEW IMPORTANCE OF SHIPPING TO NORWEGIAN
ECONOMY. SHIOPWNERS ARE NONETHELESS CONCERNED AND BELIEVE
THAT CRUISE SHIPS WILL BE AFFECTED FIRST.

8. SAS AND NORWEGIAN AIRLINES PLAN SHORTLY TO DIS-
CONTINUE SOME FLIGHTS BOTH WITHIN AND WITHOUT NORWAY. SAS
IS ALSO REPORTED RECONSIDERING PURCHASE OF THREE OF FIVE
DC-10S ON ORDER.
BYRNE

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